

As director of the State's premier business assistance program, Massey dedicates himself to helping the area's small businesses achieve success and promoting the mission and goals of the SBDC program to help spur economic development.

We are also proud of Arkansas Power Electronics International, Inc., for its recognition as the 2012 Arkansas State Small Business Person of the Year. The company continues to strive for success as it develops the next generation of high energy-efficiency power electronics systems. APEI is a great small business model, growing from one person to more than 35 in 15 years, with plans for expansion in the coming years.

These Arkansas business leaders will help move America into the future and construct the groundwork for economic recovery. We need to continue pursuing policies that support the entrepreneurial spirit of these economic building blocks.

TAIWAN'S PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, on Sunday, the 20th of May, Taiwan marked the second inauguration of President Ma Ying-jeou. Since its first direct presidential elections in 1996, Taiwan's democracy has emerged as model for the rest of the Asia Pacific region. Over these 16 years, power has changed hands twice between Taiwan's two largest political parties, demonstrating for the world the rapid maturation of its democracy and the commitment of its people to exercising their democratic freedoms. I rise today to congratulate President Ma on his inauguration, and note Taiwan's remarkable history as a kindred democracy, key partner in security and trade, and great friend of the United States.

I take deep pride in the partnership between the United States and the people of Taiwan, which is rooted in shared values, shared interests, and a shared vision for a peaceful and prosperous future. For more than 6 decades, the United States has stood with Taiwan as it has transformed into a prosperous free market democracy.

Just as the United States has supported Taiwan, so too has Taiwan been a great friend to America. Taiwan is among America's top trading partners. Moreover, time and time again from the Korean War, to the Vietnam War, to our continued security cooperation today Taiwan has stood shoulder to shoulder with the United States. I am deeply grateful to the people of Taiwan for their contributions to our shared security and prosperity.

Looking to the future, I hope and believe that President Ma's second inauguration will mark another milestone in the deepening relationship between the United States and Taiwan. For all of our progress, we still have a big agenda ahead.

It is past time for us to remove the barriers to trade between the U.S. and

Taiwan and negotiate a Free Trade Agreement with Taiwan. We must also ensure that the people of Taiwan are secure, so they can continue to decide their future for themselves. That, in turn, means the United States should take common-sense steps to deepen our security ties with Taiwan and support Taiwan in acquiring the weapons it needs and has requested. As the United States focuses increasingly on the Asia-Pacific region, the Obama Administration must do more to make Taiwan an integral part of our broader strategy to uphold the balance of power in this critical part of the world as a way to maintain peace.

In closing, I again congratulate President Ma on his inauguration and thank Taiwan's people for their decades of friendship.

TRIBUTE TO RICHARD F. WALSH

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I would be remiss if I did not recognize that today's meeting of the Senate Committee on Armed Services to vote out its annual Defense authorization bill was the last for Richard F. Walsh of my staff. I know Dick's Winnebago is packed and idling outside and is probably out of gas because he delayed his retirement to see us through mark up, but I want to say a few words before we adjourn.

I believe in the nobility of public service, and I think Dick exemplifies that, not just through his tenure here but throughout his entire career. Many may not know that Dick came to the Armed Services Committee after a distinguished 30-year career in the Navy, much of it as a judge advocate. He served in a number of challenging assignments, including counsel to the Chief of Naval Personnel; commander of the Naval Legal Service Office, National Capital Region; director of legislation in the Navy's Office of Legislative Affairs; and executive director for Senate affairs under the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Legislative Affairs.

In 2001, my good friend Senator John Warner hired Dick to handle personnel issues. From the halls of the service academies to the bones of Tripoli, Dick has seen it all. He has worked on issues of military pay, benefits, and education. Some were high profile, others not. Some were for the dogs, literally and figuratively. During his tenure, he strived to ensure fairness in the military justice system and remained vigilant so that military standards continue to reflect the honor of military service. I am proud of the work we did together on the GI bill to ensure the transferability of military benefits to family members. Through it all, he showed himself a consummate professional.

Our committee works on issues vital to our national security and the men and women who protect it. Dick's work in particular over the last decade touches our soldiers, sailors, airmen, marines, and their families, daily, in

very real, very meaningful ways. I know Dick will have mixed emotions when he leaves us, but he can take comfort in the knowledge that he has made a difference.

So from one retired Navy officer to another, I wish Dick Walsh and his wife Gail fair winds and following seas as they board their Winnebago and push off for a well-earned retirement together.

REMEMBERING DENISE ADDISON

Mr. NELSON of Nebraska. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the life of one of my long-time aides, Denise Addison, who was a devoted public servant and cherished friend. Sadly, Denise lost her long battle with cancer on May 12, 2012.

Denise first came to my office back in 2001. While I was just starting my Senate career that year, she was already an experienced veteran, having worked in Congress for 25 years.

Although Denise was not a native of Nebraska, having grown up right here in our Nation's capital, she found something special in our great State and adopted it as her own. In 1998, she began working with former Nebraska Senator Chuck Hagel, later transitioning to the office of then-Senator Bob Kerrey, whose staff members were so impressed by Denise's performance that they strongly recommended she be one of my first hires.

Denise's work with my constituent services team was impeccable. She was well aware of how important my constituents are to me and, as such, took great pride in her work. Her amazing memory and attention to detail made her a valuable staff member, and her complete satisfaction with her daily work made her irreplaceable. In this town, it is rare to find someone who possesses all of the qualities Denise brought to my staff, including loyalty, dedication, and genuine fulfillment.

Yet that was the kind of person Denise was—both at work and in her personal life. Even more remarkable than her tenure in the Senate was her commitment to her family—her husband Carl, whom she affectionately called "Mr. A;" her three children, Al, Dominique, and Jasmine; her parents; her five brothers; and her cousins, who were always more like sisters to her.

When Denise and I first started working together, her youngest daughter, Jasmine, was just starting kindergarten. Today, she is almost through high school. Denise was incredibly proud of her children and always put the needs of her family before all else.

Although the last 2 years of Denise's life were definitely a struggle for her, she never complained. Instead, she remained, as always, more concerned for those around her than for herself. I do not think she ever fully recognized what an immense impact she had on all those who knew her.

While Denise was taken from us far too soon, there is solace in knowing